

REMARKS

The title has been objected to as being overlong. The title has been amended to shorten its length. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Isaac. Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isaac in view of Pfaff. Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfaff in view of Hashiguchi.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended to specify that the socket or adapter device includes a “plurality of connection pins” and “the end sections of the connection pins viewed from the bottom of the socket or adapter being arranged obliquely with an angle between 30° and 60° with respect to a longitudinal axis of the socket or adapter device.” This amendment is supported on page 14, line 29 – page 15, line 10 of the specification. As explained in the specification and as shown in FIG. 3, the claimed configuration allows for the socket or adapter device to be equipped with a relatively high number of connection pins that extend from a lower surface of the socket or adapter device, without having the end sections of different connection pins come into contact with one another.

None of the references cited by the Examiner show a socket or adapter device that includes connection pins in which the end sections of the pins are arranged in the claimed manner. Further, none of the references suggest such a claimed configuration. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-15 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Attorney Docket No. **543822003100**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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